GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:548
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
ILL EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ill effects of the indiscriminate use of pesticides are being noticed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check the ill-effects of pesticides?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 548 DUE FOR REPLY ON 30TH AUGUST, 2001.

(a) to (c): While granting the registration of pesticides, the Registration Committee (RC) constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968, prescribes dosage, the number & manner of application and the waiting period etc. to be observed before harvesting any crop. When used as per the recommendations of the RC and following the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), the use of pesticides does not cause any ill effect to human health, etc.

Indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides may result in several ill-effects such as development of resistance in pests to pesticides, resurgence of minor pests as major ones, higher levels of toxic pesticide residues in food, fodder, pesticide contamination of water, soil etc.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the ill-effects of pesticides:-

(i) Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an eco-friendly approach which encompasses cultural, biological and mechanical methods and need based use of chemical pesticides, has been adopted as the main plank and cardinal principle of plant protection to reduce the use of chemical pesticides.

(ii) The use of bio-control agents and bio-pesticides is encouraged in place of chemical pesticides under the ambit of IPM.

(iii) Extension workers and farmers are trained in IPM as well as in safe use of pesticides through Farmers` Field Schools (FFSs) .

(iv) Judicious and need based use of chemical pesticides is recommended under IPM as a last resort on the basis of economic threshold level of pests.

(v) Literature on IPM as well as safe use of pesticides is freely distributed to extension workers and farmers.

(vi) The use of hazardous pesticides is reviewed from time to time by the Expert Committees/R.C. On the basis of recommendations of Expert Committee/RC, manufacture, use, etc. of hazardous pesticides is banned/restricted from time to time.